

**Proposal To The Leadership Council
Hood Canal Action Area Local Integrating Organization**

LIO Proposal to the Leadership Council
PSP Staff Analysis – Hood Canal Action Area

- 1) Describe geographic range
Hood Canal Action Area, including the Hood Canal water body and portions of Kitsap, Mason, and Jefferson Counties
- 2) Does the proposed organization have broad support from the local community?
The Hood Canal Coordinating Council is a council of governments representing the counties and two Indian tribes on Hood Canal, and they primarily focus on natural resource issues. The HCCC has broad community representation through their local partners and Ex-Officio members of the Council that bring various perspectives to the table. The Board itself consists of County Commissioners and Tribal Leaders, which bring their respective community perspectives to the table.
- 3) Do they have the ability/capacity/authority to execute roles and responsibilities inherent to a Local Integrating Organization, such as:
 - a. Advising the Partnership on Action Agenda Priorities?
The HCCC is well situated to advise the PSP on Action Agenda priorities primarily because they focus on natural resource issues and have multi-jurisdictional representation from elected officials throughout the Canal. To help sharpen priorities, the HCCC is currently working through an Integrated Watershed Plan, which will help prioritize action necessary to advance the protection and recovery of the Hood Canal. This group is already working in tandem with the Partnership to make sure planning and action efforts are in sync. This effort will help the HCCC and the public advise the PSP on new priority actions.
 - b. Providing assistance to enhance implementation work by local groups?
The HCCC can enhance implementation work by local groups by helping to collectively foster and articulate priorities for the Hood Canal through community-based processes, sponsoring venues to share messages and communications, and seeking funds to leverage and enhance activities carried out by local groups.
 - c. Working cooperatively to implement strategic actions in the AA?
The Council brings their unique multi-jurisdictional perspectives to the table, which will help formulate and plan for strategic actions that execute the Action Agenda. Their long history and system is well established in a way that facilitates cooperative actions in the Hood Canal.
 - d. Basing their work in the best scientific information available?
The Council has close connections with scientists in the academic community, as well as agency scientists, all of which provide information support for decisions that affect the health of the Hood Canal. The Council is the designated body to execute the Hood Canal Aquatic Rehabilitation Program, which is a science-based management plan to address water quality issues in the Canal. They are the lead organization to recover both mid-Hood Canal Chinook and Hood Canal Summer Chum; both plans use science and technical

information as a cornerstone. In addition, their Integrated Watershed Planning Initiative actively includes science to help guide decision-making.

- e. Evaluating progress in implementing the AA at the local scale?
As part of the Integrated Watershed Planning effort, and in their role in salmon recovery, the HCCC is well situated to help track implementation of the AA priorities at the local scale. Additional activities for tracking would require further resources.

Note: The Hood Canal Coordinating Council already functions in many of the capacities outlined above; however effectively executing their role as an LIO will require further funding and staffing.

- 4) Is their structure conducive to actualizing the above roles and responsibilities?
The Council has a long history of addressing similar issues as those outlined as priorities in the Action Agenda. They have done so cooperatively and have long been a venue to convene various interests in matters concerning Hood Canal.
- 5) How might this proposed organization receive grants and other funds to support staff and assist in the implementation of the local Action Agenda priorities? For example, are they a 501(c)(3) or might they delegate this role to a specific member?
The HCCC is a 501(c)(3) organization that can accept and administer funds, and it also includes the membership of tribes and counties that can accept and allocate funds through their own administrations.
- 6) What are the first steps the organization will take, or has taken, toward implementing the Action Agenda?
Because of the HCCC's long history, they have been operating similarly to an "LIO" for some time. They lead salmon recovery in the Canal, they coordinate between counties, they represent their constituencies, and they address natural resource issues. The embodiment of much of this is in their recently launched Integrated Watershed Planning effort, which is advancing in tandem with the Partnership in a complementary manner.
- 7) What are the major challenges this group faces? What is being done to address those challenges?
- *Operational Funding: the HCCC currently has staff, but they are operating at capacity. In their role as the LIO, further staffing needs are necessary to better implement the action agenda and realize their role as an LIO.*
 - *Project Funding: as a means to further convene the local community around issues of importance, the HCCC will need funding to execute their strategies to protect and restore the Hood Canal. For example, they are short-staffed in their Integrated Watershed Planning effort; and this effort will likely highlight gaps in current actions that will need to be filled.*
- 8) Will this group evolve/change over time?
This group will change over time as newly elected officials populate the Board. It will also change over time by assembling community work groups that will convene as topics emerge.